

**Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Report:
East Fork Creek
COF-020-062**

Section 201 of FLPMA requires the BLM to maintain on a continuing basis an inventory of all public lands and their resources and other values, which includes wilderness characteristics. It also provides that the preparation and maintenance of the inventory shall not, of itself, change or prevent change of the management or use of public lands. Regardless of past inventory, the BLM must maintain and update as necessary, its inventory of wilderness resources on public lands. In some circumstances conditions relating to wilderness characteristics may have changed over time, and an area that was once determined to lack wilderness characteristics may now possess them. BLM Manual 6310 'Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands' provides the guidance on conducting this inventory process.

Following BLM guidance the Royal Gorge Field Office conducted an inventory in 2013 and found the 1367.15 acre unit did not meet the criteria for having wilderness characteristics. Per policy, the public has the opportunity to provide new information regarding wilderness characteristics that the BLM must evaluate and consider. New information that meets the minimum standard for further review was submitted by Wild Connections on May 6, 2015 contending that the unit did in fact meet the criteria. This report reflects an updated inventory that combines BLM's 2013 findings and an evaluation of the data submitted by Wild Connections.

Inventory Effort	Acreage Inventoried	Wilderness Characteristics Acreage
BLM 2013 Inventory	1,367	0
Wild Connections Inventory Beaver Creek WSA West	1,367	1,367
BLM 2015 Evaluation Conclusions	1,367	1260.88

Form 1: Document Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings on Record (Refers to Original 1980's Inventory Effort)

Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

NO X (If no, go to form 2)

YES If yes, and if the area has subunits within the broader area, list the unique identifiers for each of those subunits:

Inventory Source:

Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): 069 435

Map Name(s)/Number(s): _____

BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Front Range District/ Royal Gorge Field Office

BLM Inventory findings on record: Document existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Document BLM Wilderness Characteristics Findings on Record (Historic Findings)					
Inventory Source Document:					
Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? (YES/NO & acres)	Naturalness (YES/NO)	Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude (YES/NO)	Outstanding opportunities for primitive & unconfined recreation (YES/NO)	Supplemental Values? (YES/NO)

(add rows as needed)

Form 2: Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-062, East Fork Creek

Acres: 1,260.88 acres

1. Is the area of sufficient size? :

Yes X No _____

BLM originally found that this unit was not contiguous with the Beaver Creek WSA. This finding was contested by Wild Connections stating that approximately ¼ mile boundary was in fact shared and met the contiguous definition. Since BLM policy does not define contiguous the BLM concurs with Wild Connections in that the ¼ mile shared boundary is in fact contiguous. The parcel also shares a corner with the Beaver Creek WSA. It should be noted that BLM does not agree that a shared corner is considered contiguous.

The land is not greater than 5,000 acres. The unit shares two edges of its boundary with the BLM Beaver Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA), managed by the Royal Gorge Field Office. The lands are contiguous with the WSA and do meet the size exception.

The unit, COF-020-062, is bounded as follows:

- The north is bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The north east edge is bounded by CO-020-062-B, consists of a ROW road that accesses private land.
- The eastern edge is mostly defined by property lines other than BLM management;
- The southern edge touches the Beaver Creek WSA and shares property lines with other than BLM management;
- The western edge is defined by property lines other than BLM management.

2. Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes X No _____ NA _____

Due to difficult access to the parcel the BLM utilized aerial imagery and google earth to assess if man-made disturbances were within the unit. Based on these sources there is no evidence of man-made disturbances that would lead the BLM to think any were present. A limited amount of linear disturbances were identified that are consistent with old road cuts that have largely grown over. The area appears to be natural.

3. Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes X No _____ NA _____

Description:

The parcel is contiguous with Beaver Creek WSA which offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. This parcel shares these characteristics. Despite the adjacent private land with what appears to be a private residence the steep and rugged drainages would lend to solitude opportunities.

4. Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes X No NA

Description:

The parcel is contiguous with Beaver Creek WSA which offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. This parcel shares these characteristics. The steep rugged drainages and ridges would offer outstanding opportunities for exploration and challenge.

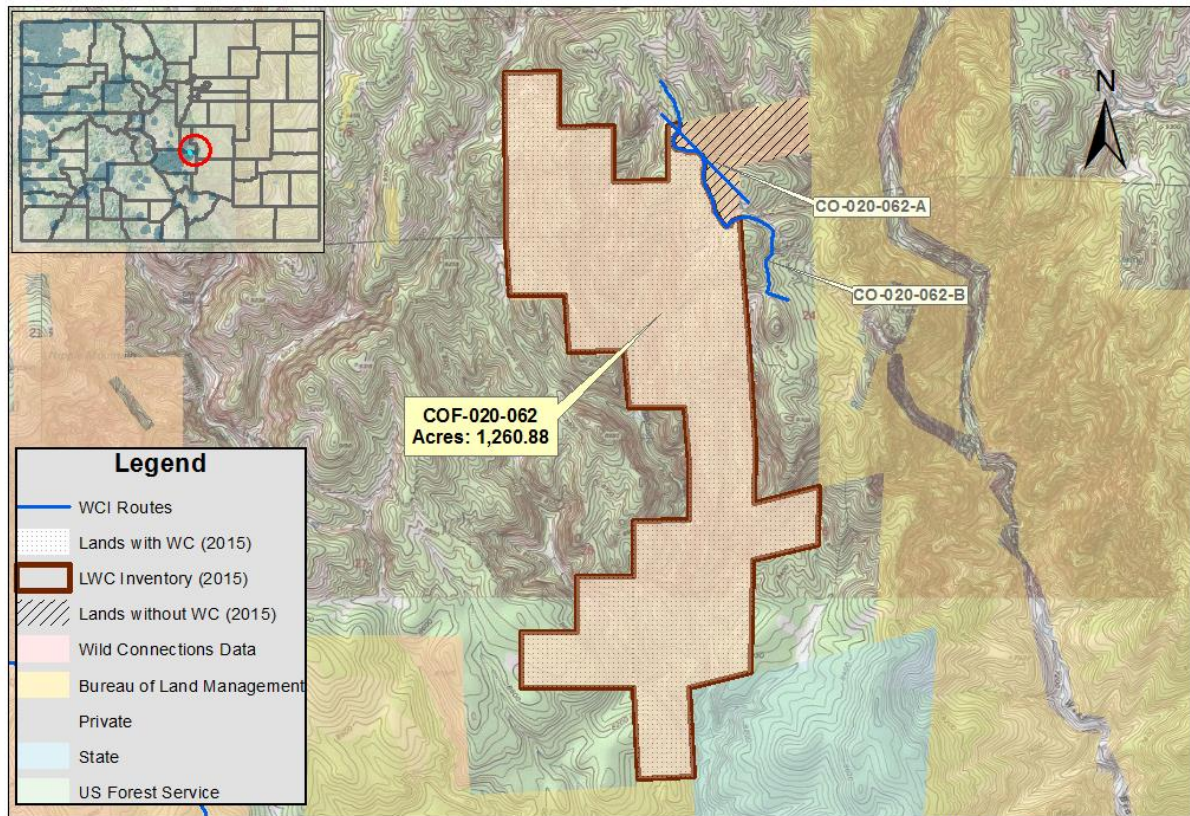
5. Does the area have supplemental values?

Yes X No NA

Description:

- The unit contains Mexican spotted owl Critical Habitat.
- The unit provides elk severe winter range and mule deer winter range as mapped by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Map 1 East Fork Creek 2015 inventory with boundary change



0 0.25 0.5
Miles

**COF-020-062, East Fork Creek
Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Map**

NOTE TO MAP USERS
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked for current status on any specific tract of land.

Prepared by P Chapman 01/19/2016

Summary of Analysis:

Unique Identifier: COF-020-062, East Fork Creek

Acreage: 1,260.88 acres

Results of Analysis:

Inventory concluded that the unit does meet the size requirements to have wilderness characteristics. The parcel shares an approximately ¼ mile boundary with the Beaver Creek Wilderness Study Area. The lands are contiguous and do meet the size exception.

The unit, CO-020-062, is bounded as follows:

- The north is bounded by property lines other than BLM management;
- The north east edge is bounded by CO-020-062-B.
- The eastern edge is mostly defined by property lines other than BLM management;
- The southern edge touches the Beaver Creek WSA and shares property lines with other than BLM management;
- The western edge is defined by property lines other than BLM management.
- The unit is found in parts of the sections listed in the following townships;
 - o T. 16 S. R. 69 W. Sections: 14, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26

- Does the area meet size requirements or exceptions? Yes X No _____
- Does the area appear natural? Yes X No _____ NA _____
- Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes X No _____ NA _____
- Does the area have supplemental value? Yes X No _____ NA _____

Check one:

X The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as land with wilderness characteristics.

____ The area does not have wilderness characteristic.

This does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision, and does not represent a decision in regard to how the area will be managed or address impacts of management decisions.

Prepared by:

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Technician

Date: May 30, 2013

Evaluator: Kalem Lenard/ Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: December 21, 2015

Evaluator: Ken Reed/ Forrester

Date: August 4, 2013

Evaluator: Chris Cloninger/ Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: September 9, 2013

Evaluator: Matt Rustand/Wildlife Biologist

Date: Sept 13, 2013

Form 3: Route Analysis:

The Route Analysis includes factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. For the purposes of this analysis, use the following definition of a “road”. This definition is drawn from and the FLPMA legislative history and historic BLM inventory direction.

Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

- a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.
- b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
- c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings.

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: COF-020-062

Route or Route Segment Name and/or Identifier: No wilderness inventory road identified within the unit.

I. LOCATION:

Refer to attached map and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log:

Map Title: Unit, COF-020-062 Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Map

Map Date: 2013

Describe:

The map shows the parcel inventoried for wilderness characteristics, photo points and routes collected by GPS

II. ROUTE CONTEXT

The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

A. Current Purpose of Route:

Describe:

CO-020-062-A is an administrative route for a power line.

CO-020-062-B is an access route to private land

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

B.1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes X No Unknown

If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

CO-020-062-A ROW is used as an administrative route for utilities – transmission line.

CO-020-062-B ROW is used as access to private property

B.2. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes X No Unknown or N/A

Explain:

CO-020-062-A ROW; the transmission line is still in use.

CO-020-062-B ROW is still in use.

III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

A. Is there evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means?

Yes, if either III.A.1 *or* III.A.2 is checked “yes” below X

No, if both III.A.1 *and* III.A.2 are checked “no” below

A.1. Construction: Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?

Yes X No

Describe:

CO-020-062-A has evidence of being originally mechanically constructed, bladed.

CO-020-062-B has evidence of being originally mechanically constructed, bladed.

A.2. Improvements: Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?

Yes If “yes”, improvements by? Hand Tools by Machine

No

Describe:

- N/A

B. Maintenance: Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?

Yes, if either III.B.1 *or* III.B.2 is checked “yes” below X

No, if both III.B.1 *and* III.B.2 are checked “no” below

B.1. Is there evidence or documentation of maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes X If "yes", maintenance by? Hand Tools _____ by Machine X

No _____

Explain:

- N/A

B.2. If the route or route segment is in good condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable? "Good condition" would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

Yes _____ No _____

Explain:

- CO-020-062-A would be maintained for full size vehicle use for transmission line maintenance.
- CO-020-062-B would be maintained for full size vehicle use.

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?

Yes X No _____

Explain: Describe evidence (e.g., direct: vehicles or vehicle tracks observed; or indirect: evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route). Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes (e.g., trips per day, week, month, season, year, or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases).

- CO-020-062-A is maintained for regular and continuous use, used annually.
- CO-020-062-B would be maintained for full size vehicle use

IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road? If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why. Also, describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

Yes X = Wilderness Inventory Road

No _____ = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

- CO-020-064-A meets the criteria to be a wilderness inventory road.
- CO-020-064-A meets the criteria to be a wilderness inventory road and bounds the NE corner.

Evaluator: Janine Prout/ Recreation Assistant
Linda Skinner/ Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: August 27, 2013
Date: February 18, 2016

PHOTO LOG

Photographer(s):,

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **COF-020-062, East Eight- Mile**

Date	Frame #	Camera Direc.	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #

Royal Gorge Field Office Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Inventory, 2015: Evaluation of new information

Assessment and Determination

The BLM Royal Gorge Field Office followed manual 6310 in the performance of inventory for lands with wilderness characteristics. In response to new information submitted in May, 2015 by Wild Connections, the 2013 inventory was re-evaluated. A final review was made by comparing existing data and when needed additional field trips were taken to collect data by GPS, inventory forms, and photo points. Resource specialists were also consulted to determine if the conclusion reached in the 2013 inventory remains valid, or whether changes should occur. The above report documents those findings for the following area(s):

Unit ID	Unit Name	Total BLM acreage inventoried	Acreage with Wilderness Characteristics	Acreage without Wilderness Characteristics
COF-020-062	East Fork Creek	1,367.2	1,260.9	106.1

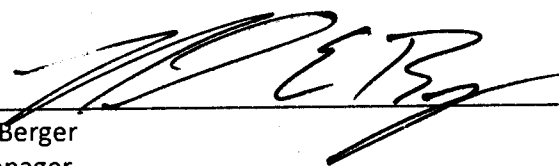
Review:

I have reviewed the inventory results, reports, photos, and maps for the above Lands with Wilderness Characteristics and concur with the findings as submitted.



James Kalem Lenard
Outdoor Recreation Planner, Royal Gorge Field Office

Date: 2/22/16



Keith E. Berger
Field Manager
Royal Gorge Field Office

Date: 2/24/16